

Message Text

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AMCONSUL NICE

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FR, PGOV

SUBJECT: THE REPUBLICA CONTINUES TO APPEAR IN FRANCE

REF: PARIS 16305 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. THE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS (QP) HAS CONTINUED TO PUBLISH ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS WRITTEN BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF THE REPUBLICA. FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) CHARGES THAT THE QP/REPUBLICA PUBLICATION IS A CONCEALED COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ATTACK BY PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS (PSP) ON THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) HAVE BEEN VOCIFEROUS, BUT THE PCF'S REAL TARGET IS THE SO-CALLED "SECRET MOSCOW DOCUMENT." THE # IS AROUSING CONSIDERABLE PRESS COMMENT, PARTICULARLY

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SINCE IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE DOCUMENT IN QUESTION,

WHICH WAS DENOUNCED AS A FORGERY BY THE PCF, WAS PUBLISHED IN AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MAGAZINE PRINTED IN PRAGUE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE QP/REPUBLICA: ON JUNE 23 THE QP/REPUBLICA PUBLISHED A DOCUMENT PURPORTEDLY EMANATING FROM MOSCOW IN WHICH WESTERN COMMUNIST PARTIES WERE GIVEN GUIDANCE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THEIR BOURGEOIS OPPONENTS." THE TACTICS SUGGESTED WERE THOSE WHICH THE PCP HAS BEEN USING IN ITS STRUGGLES WITH THE PSP. ON JUNE 24 THE QP GAVE ITS BACK PAGE TO THE REPUBLICA, WHICH USED IT TO DISCUSS PORTUGAL'S EMBATTLED WEEKLY "GAZETA DO SUL" AND TO CONTINUE ITS ANTI-CENSORSHIP CAMPAIGN. JUNE 25TH SAW THE REPUBLICA PAGE AGAIN ATTACKING THE PCP FOR ITS ATTEMPTS TO SILENCE THE SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER.

2) THE PCP REACTION: L'HUMANITE, THE PCP DAILY, HAS DENOUNCED THE QP/REPUBLICA AS A CLASSIC ANTI-COMMUNIST, COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY EFFORT, BUT THE MAIN THRUST OF ITS ATTACK HAS BEEN AGAINST THE "MOSCOW DOCUMENT". PCF LEADER PAUL LAURENT CALLED ON QP EDITOR-IN-CHIEF PHILIPPE TESSON TO "EXAMINE THE PROOFS" OF THE DOCUMENT'S AUTHENTICITY; TESSON RESPONDED THAT THE QP HAD SIMPLY GIVEN SPACE TO THE REPUBLICA AND HAD NO INTENTION OF SUBMITTING THE REPUBLICA EDITORS' COPY TO ANY VERIFICATION. LAURENT PROMPTLY LABELLED THE DOCUMENT AS FALSE.

3) "THE MOSCOW DOCUMENT": MASS CIRCULATION DAILY FRANCE-SOIR, FOLLOWED BY AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, OTHER WIRE SERVICES AND THE QP ITSELF, HAVE CLAIMED THAT THE ALLEGEDLY SECRET "MOSCOW DOCUMENT" WAS IN FACT AN ARTICLE SIGNED BY BORIS PONOMAREV WHICH APPEARED IN THE JUNE, 1974 ENGLISH EDITION OF THE WORLD MARXIST REVIEW (KNOWN IN FRENCH AS THE NOUVELLE REVUE INTERNATIONALE). THE ARTICLE IS SAID TO HAVE APPEARED ONLY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE. LE MONDE'S ALAIN CLEMENT HAS TOLD EMBASSY PRESSATT THAT HIS NEWSPAPER IS IN POSSESSION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEXT AND IS PLANNING AN EXTENSIVE PIECE FOR THE NEXT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EDITION OF THE PAPER (FRENCH NEWSPAPERS WILL BE ON STRIKE ON JUNE 26).

4) COMMENT AND CONCLUSION: IF THE STORY OF THE "MOSCOW DOCUMENT'S " ORIGINS IS PROVEN, AS NOW SEEMS LIKELY, THE EFFECT WILL BE TO EMBARRASS THE PCF WHICH RUSHED TO DENOUNCE THE QP/REPUBLICA'S EXTRACTS FROM IT AS A FORGERY AND DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH GUIDELINES FOR

THE WESTERN COMMUNIST PARTIES. "THE PCF," ONE
JOURNALIST SAID, "HAS BEEN HAD -- AND THAT'S HARD TO
FORGIVE IN FRENCH POLITICS."
RUSH

NOTE BY OCT: #AS RECEIVED.

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